

DESCRIPTION AMENDMENTS

Page 1, after the title insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 1, to read as follows:

The object of the present invention is to eliminate some of the drawbacks of the prior art and to realize ~~and~~ an advanced supporting apparatus for material to be treated in thermal treatment furnaces, by means of which apparatus hot gases are made to flow, at the support apparatus, also underneath the material to be supported, without subjecting the smaller roll used for the support proper to an excessive thermal load. The essential novel features of the invention are apparent from the appended claims.

Before the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 9, insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Before the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 27, insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 27, to read as follows:

The invention is explained in more detail with reference to the accompanying drawings, where

figure 1 is a side-view illustration of a preferred embodiment of the invention, seen in a partial cross-section,

figure 2 is an illustration of the embodiment of figure 1, seen in the direction A-A,

figure 3 is an illustration of the embodiment of figure 1, seen in the direction B-B, and

figure 4 is an illustration of the embodiment of figure 1, as installed at the orifice of ~~an~~ a thermal treatment furnace.

Before the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8, insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rewrite the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 8, to read as follows:

According to the drawings, against the housing element 1 of the support apparatus according to the invention, there is supported, by means of ~~supports~~ support members 2, support rollers 4 meant for supporting the material 3 to be thermally treated. The support rollers 4 are installed symmetrically with respect to the housing element 1. In the housing element 1, there are connected members (not illustrated) in order to rotate the housing element, so that the mutual position of the support rollers 4 with respect to the housing element 1 can be changed.